

Ronald John Guth  
1401 Point Court  
Lutz, FL 33549  
20 January, 1981

Dear Mr. Tettenhorst,

You may or may not remember me. I met you at the 1977 Half Cent gathering at Jon Lusk's house and sold you two error half cents there. Since that time, I've quit collecting half cents so that I could devote all my time and resources to my coin store here in Tampa. Recently however, I have sold my business and have started collecting half cents once again. In doing so, I have been going over all my old files and getting back in touch with my fellow collectors from long ago (gosh, it's only been three years!).

I was fortunate to be able to attend the 1980 half cent happening again at Jon's and discuss the half cents with people (old and new) who had similar interests. Of course, the conversation invariably includes a discussion of your fabulous holdings with everyone trying to remember which "name" coin you own that is the most memorable to them.

My favorite half cent (although I have not seen yours) is the 1811 Mickley restrike. I've kept a running census of the coin and it's owners and although six are reportedly struck with only five known, my records show seven different specimens. I'm sure I have some duplication and was wondering if you could share the provenance of your coin with me. I show yours as being the New Jersey Historical Society specimen which came to you via Munde and Cohen. Correct me if I am wrong. Also, do you know the whereabouts of the Showers specimen? Was it not included in the coins you bought from the collection?

I hope you don't mind me asking questions pertaining to your coins, but I know that you are as interested in researching them as I am. My financial situation won't allow me to collect the "biggies" so I fulfill my fantasies by learning as much as I can about them. I can profess an intense desire to observe your coins, whether in person or through pictures but for right now discussing them will suffice.

My latest research also concerns the 1797 Lettered edge half cent. I am trying to prove that the edge lettering was put on the coins sometime in 1799 AFTER the coins were struck. My census does not list your coin(s) and I am hoping that your coin is one of the high-grade specimens (VF or EF). If in fact it is, could you please examine the edge and describe it regarding the bevelled edge. My theory is that the bevelled edge occurred by running an over-sized planchet through the lettering machine. The tendency for such a planchet would be to pop out of the machine under pressure or buckle the coin itself. Of course if that

were true the opposite edges of the coin would be perfectly parallel throughout the circumference of the coin. Also, if the letters were high on one side of the coin, they would appear low directly opposite on the other edge of the coin. Does your piece fit this description. If you are interested or do not understand me completely I'll be glad to discuss it over the phone. My number is 813-949-4538 (I'm home usually from 6 PM on).

One of the main reasons that I am looking for a high grade specimen is that if in fact the coin was run through the lettering machine after it was struck, it might show some damage as a result of having been run through the process. It would seem that some downward pressure would be necessary to keep the coin from popping out of the lettering machine and if so, there would probably be some circular or semi-circular damage on one or both sides of the coin depending upon what was used to hold it down. Anyway, you can see that I've given this some thought. Until a specimen is found that will verify either one of these theories they will remain just that--theories.

I know of the location of the New Netherlands 56th sale coin and am awaiting a reply from it's owner. The coin is reported to be a VF and at one time was listed as finest known, but I think that the Dr. Black coin is the best (EF).

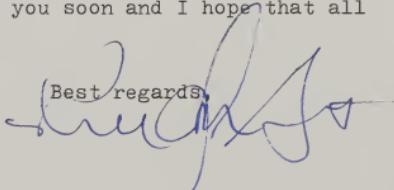
I saw McGuigan's 1795 5b in MS-65, the ex-Ruby error coin. Boy, what a blazer. He seems to be putting a few dollars into upgrading his collection. Gene Braig showed me his 1831 from the Garrett sale. I think that the paperwork that accompanied it was more impressive than the coin itself, although it is quite nice AND it is a business strike.

Did you purchase any of the Garrett coins. I understand that the grading was most conservative and today most of the prices seem very reasonable in retrospect.

My wife and I will be moving to Evansville, Indiana in a month or two where she and I will go into a sort of semi-retirement. I'm cutting down on my business (so that I don't die of a heart-attack at some foolishly young age) and we are looking for a small tract of land to raise some farm animals on. I can't wait!

I look forward to hearing from you soon and I hope that all is well with you and your family.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim C. Johnson". To the left of the signature, the text "Best regards," is written in a smaller, printed-style font.

I now have cotton-lined envelopes for sale at \$15 per hundred. These are the preferred method of storing copper coins - the coin is first brushed with a No. 4 camel-hair brush to remove surface film (this is not the same as cleaning a coin, which should NOT be done), then the coin is inserted into the cotton-lined pouch which is then in turn placed in a kraft paper envelope, upon which a description of the coin can be written. This method provides the safest storage for half-cents and is the one used by every major collector today. PLEASE DO NOT STORE YOUR COINS IN VINYL OR PVC FLIPS. IT WILL RUIN THEM!

A limited number of copies of Roger S. Cohen, Jr.'s book on American Half Cents are available at \$15. per. This is the most recent publication on U.S. Half Cents and is a must for any serious variety collector.

Also available is a copy of the Elder reprint of the Gilbert book on Half cents. This is the spiral bound copy with the black cover. The plates in this copy are better than those in the original and if you have a hard-time making out the half-tone plates in the modern Gilbert reprints, then this book is for you. My selling price is \$75. When I can get them, I will pay \$50 for nice copies and I'm even more interested in the earlier original editions.

Walter Breen will be updating and publishing a manuscript he wrote in 1966 on half cents. Jack Collins, who will be doing the photography for the book, announced publication plans at the E.A.C. meeting held at the Long Beach coin show. Plans call for the book to be available around the first of the year.

Roger Cohen also plans on updating and revising his 1971 work on half-cents. This should also be available around January. I realize that two books coming out at the same time, both on the same subject, seems rather confusing, but both should be worthwhile and valuable to the half cent collector. Please look for them.

A new specimen of the 1795 C-2b has been discovered by a collector. This goes to show that it is occasionally possible for the average collector to "cherry-pick" a rare variety. This helps to make our collecting more fun and challenging. You will notice by the rarity ratings I give along with the variety designations that many of the varieties have been down-graded since Cohen published his book. This is due, in fact, to the large number of new specimens of the rare varieties that have been discovered since 1971. As time passes, more and more will be discovered, leading to an even further reduction in rarity ratings for some of the rare varieties, but it will also make some of these coins available which were once considered almost un-collectible. There is nothing more frustrating than collecting a series, obtaining most of the varieties, and then finding a significant number of coins which are almost impossible to get. On the other hand, perhaps that is the attraction to collecting half cents by variety. But cheer up, it gets easier each and every year.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who has discovered a new variety or a specimen of a known rare variety. The on-going research in half cents helps to make the most up-to-date information available to you. Knowledge is money!

Feb. 3, 1981

Dear Tom,

Sure I remember. Good serious half-cent lovers are not so plentiful as to be easily forgotten. It will be a pleasure to exchange information and opinions on the questions you raise.

1811 Mickley. Yes, mine came from Roger's fixed price list and he told me at that time that it was the NTHS. At the time of the Stack's Mar. 1975 sale of many DuPont 1/2¢, I toyed with the idea of buying that specimen also, to have a duplicate for fun and possible future trading. But I was buying quite a few others, so I passed it up.

Then I noticed that a New England firm (NERCG?) was offering one at near \$10,000. If I had bought the DuPont, I would probably have tried to negotiate a more realistic price for the third (for some reason I cannot now remember, I was confident that this was not the DuPont reappearing, but you may have better data on this than I had). At any rate, if I had had a second, and certainly if a third, I would have kept the Shavers also, but I did not. So the opportunity to own three or four slipped through my fingers.

I don't know where the Shavers coin went after I passed it up, but if you like I will try to find out for you. Also I would be interested to have a copy of your census, if you would be willing to share it.

Do you know anyone who has done a similar history on the Dr. Edwards copies of the 1796, which appear to be not much more common than the Mickley 1811's?

1797 Lettered Edge Good news and bad news. After looking at four specimens in various conditions, I find that they ALL have bevelled edges starting

in alternating directions, which is certainly consistent with your theory of the over-sized coin. Moreover, they all also have edge-lettering which runs off the edge, first high and then low. It seems clear that the coin was not well aligned with the lettering device.

However, to some extent on all of them, and most clearly on the highest grade one, the normally struck obverse and reverse can be seen to have been struck after the edge lettering. Where the edge lettering runs off the edge, in a number of places the letter is not as deep at the obverse and reverse planes as it is on the edge. The cut of the letter is just not as deep as it would be if it had been struck last. What has happened is that in the subsequent strike of the coin, the metal has partly flowed into the cut made where the edge lettering has gone off the planchet.

At least that is the way it appears to me. How does that observation match up with other coins you have seen?

By the way, the two gripped-edge coins I looked at also have the same sort of bevelling. It is more difficult to evaluate whether the gripping device itself is high or low than with the lettering.

Garrett Sale shut me out. On a couple I was willing to bid twice what I thought they <sup>were</sup> worth, and barely had time to get my hand in the air before they roared past my limit. In retrospect prices of almost anything in any field with enduring value appear to have been reasonable.

Take care of your health. Avoid tension. Don't worry about anything you can't do something

about.

Evansville isn't very far from St. Louis. If you are coming over this way, and can let me know enough ahead of time, I would be most happy to show you some coins in any area of particular interest. I wander around a bit, so it would be better to have a couple of choices of dates.

Do you have any unusual error half-cents? Struck over strange under-types, double-strikes, breakages, etc. I am trying to get together an accumulation of information on such items for a beginning article in PW?

Nice to hear from you,

Tell

Ronald John Guth  
P.O. Box 5481  
Evansville, IN 47715

20 March, 1981

Dear Tett,

Thank you for your letter of long ago. I am sorry not to have written sooner but I have been trying to re-locate to Evansville, IN for the last month and I have been gone all that time. As a matter of fact, I arrived home just three hours ago from a side-trip to Mexico City and before I drop from exhaustion I am going to answer yours and some of those other lost letters on my desk! As you can see by the above address my wife and I have been successful in finding a place in Heavensville. Please note it in your records.

Your information on both the 1811 Mickley restrike and the 1797 C-3b was very helpful. I will list below what I have on the Restrike:

1. Dupont:1107,\$275.-Dorothy Nelson- "TAD collection"-Stack's 3/75:844,\$4750. to the book-?
2. Brobst-Hanson-Partrick
3. Showers-Flynn-?
4. Brand?-George Bauer-prominent collector
5. Lester Merkin-R.L. Miles:34,\$1900.-Q.D.Bowers-Stack's Auction '80:1014,\$4750.-?
6. "Century":89-Alfred Bonard-Jon Hanson
7. New Jersey Historical Society-Munde-Cohen-Tett

Comments: 4. or 5. is the Mehl specimen, but would be hard to prove either way. 3.,5., or 6 is NERCG 6/74,\$9950.-Rev. Harry Stewart (although I think the Reverend is suspect in his info: he supposedly has the fourth 1808 C-1, a Good specimen). 2 and 6 could be the same coin: I have a letter off to Hanson right now. If it is that would account for six specimens, the number supposed to have been created. I have a feeling that Mickley was the type of guy that would tell the truth so there probably is a duplication in there somewhere. I'd appreciate any comments on the list.

Your observations on the 1797 C-3b match those of everyone else I have heard from. My original hope had been that perhaps these coins were lettered in some year subsequent to their issue so that they could be distinguished from those given out in 1797. However, that has not proven to be true and no reason can be found for the lettering, except perhaps that they were lettered to distinguish them as having been minted in a year subsequent to that on the coin. This is the more correct of the theories and matches information confirmed by Breen and R.W. Julian that these pieces were coined sometime in 1799. This is also confirmed by the existence of pieces with known identifiable large cent undertypes that are known to have been struck in 1798. In any event this variety has become my favorite:I have picked up three pieces since the F.U.N. show in January, two with large

cent undertypes (strong although not identifiable as to variety). It is interesting to ponder the reason for resurrecting the milling machine four years after they were struck. What do you think?

What are the grades and pedigrees of your 1797 C-3b's?

Also do you have the gripped edge variety? I'd be interested in obtaining a specimen if you have a duplicate (you're the only one I know that might have a duplicate, for that matter!).

I'm surprised you were not able to buy anything out of the Garrett sale. But perhaps you are right in that at the time the prices realized were astronomical. Looking back, though, they do seem cheap, especially in light of the fact that most of them were graded so accurately that for once, coins at auction were actually under-graded. I understand that B&R had an agreement with Johns Hopkins that all coins were to be sold and that none were to be returned to the university for any reason. In other words, B&R was ultimately responsible and they sure as heck didn't want anything coming back. It appears they avoided this by under-grading in some instances and accurately grading in all instances. This is another reason why most bids went to the floor and few went to the mail: the floor had the advantage of knowing what the coins looked like. In light of the current low market in coins, it will be interesting if the last session produces the same "high" prices as in the first three. If they do I think I will change my name to Garrett if I ever sell any coins in the future!

How are you on die states? I recently obtained an 1804 C-6 from Stacks that is an intermediate between 1 and two and an EF coin. Gene Braig has told me that there are probably thirty states total, but I would imagine that not too many people know exactly what they are, and also that some are probably the result of an over-imaginative mind working on a low-grade coin. However, it is an interesting display to get a few die states together. What have you got?

I hope that someday soon I can see your collection. I'm working on photographing mine and as soon as I am finished I will send you some highlights. Right now, Maggie and I are still in the process of moving, so until we finish it will be difficult to get together with you.

Who ended up with the 1794 C-7 in MS-65 that Numismatics, Ltd. had a year or so ago? That sure was a beautiful coin and today the price seems reasonable. Another example of 20/20 hindsight!

As far as errors go, I am the last source in the world. The last pieces I owned were sold to you at an EAC half-cent gathering. However, if I see anything interesting in my travels, I'll let you know. The latest issue of P-W has an interesting picture.

Well, it's getting time for bed and my eyes are getting foggy. If I keep at this I'm going to have to prop my eyelids up with toothpicks. Another day in the life of a rabid numismatist.....

So long and best wishes!



9 May, 1981

Dear Tett,

I can't tell you how pleased and excited I was to see you and all the other half cent collectors at the EAC convention in Dallas. There is a certain excitement to dealing in coins, but it is even more evident in half cent collecting. It seems to be a segment of collecting that is in a constant state of flux, with exciting new developments occurring on a steady basis. New discoveries, new specimens popping up, newer and higher condition coins, and so on and so on. I sometimes wonder how boring my life really is when something as simple as a small piece of copper the size of a quarter can make such a big difference.

Enough philosophizing.

Enclosed is my latest list of half cents. The two pieces that appear to have your name on them would be the 1809 and the 1803 half cent errors. The 1809 should be of particular interest, as it appears to be stuck twice ONLY on the reverse, and that strike is about fifty percent off-center and rotated. If you are interested, let me know. I still have the 1797 gripped edge in the back of my mind if we can work something out.

Also, take a look at the photo of the 1802 electrotype half cent I am sending. It is the first run of photos I took and as you can see the detail is pretty good. The color has to be corrected somewhat but I am perfecting that through my relationship with the photo lab. They are able to make all sorts of changes in the color correctness right there in the lab while in the developing and printing processes. Backlighting will eliminate the shadows around the coin, but for a first effort, I am pleased. Eventually I would like to photograph all the significant half cents known, and I probably would work a deal like this. I'll photograph any collection free of charge, if I can keep a set of the prints for myself and use them in my reference file. This would give the collector a free set of prints to also use for reference or insurance purposes, which would also eliminate the need to carry the coins around to shows to display them.. If the quality of the photos is good enough, they will speak nicely in the coin's place. What do you think?

I am working heavily on a history of the US Mint at Philly. No current book will be as complete or detailed as my information will be, and it will be valuable to half cent collectors in understanding practices that led to the interesting variations within the series.

Keep in touch. In fact, if you would send me your info on the 1793 C-1 half cent, I'll swap info with you and between you, me, and Roger, I think we can come up with a fairly complete census for that and all varieties. It's a great place to start.

Best wishes,

RON

6/8/81

Dear Ron,

Enjoyed seeing you also in Dallas. It is fun to get together. The two inexpensive coins I bought from you were my only acquisitions there, but it doesn't matter when it is so much fun talking about half-cents. I did also get the 1808/7 in the auction with "reverse die-cracks."

A number of subjects:

1) The 1802 picture is very good. You only sent me the picture of the obverse, but I'll bet you a lunch (collect in New Orleans) I can identify the reverse. There are two small scratches from a leaf to the denticles running between M and E. Am I right?

If so, then you may be interested in the following:

a) In the original are: the hole in the shoulder, small nick in top fold of drapery near hair, nick in eye, lumps in denticles under date

b) Not in the original are: Scratch in field in front of chin, pit in field <sup>to right and</sup> above tip of bust, edge bump at 3 o'clock.

c) More than one electro was made of this original.

2) The 1803 off-center is a coin I would like to see.

The 1809 also, although I think you have this much overpriced. The 1809's were carelessly handled as to double-strikes, etc. I have <sup>multiple of off strippings</sup> ten of this date, including G1, G2, G4, and G5. Also including a triple-strike, a uniface striking, a double strike with a second blank planchet in the press during the first striking, and an off-center double strike with the first strike being a brockage. And, not included in these 10, also off-center strippings of the above four varieties.

Yours sounds as though the first strike occurred with two blank planchets <sup>with one or both 50% off-center</sup> in the press. When the uniface coins were ejected, even the careless inspection of that year spotted them, and they were put back in the press,

producing a coin struck normally on one side and twice on the other. The price, in my opinion, should be between \$125 and \$175. However, I am a poor judge of pricing. If you get \$350 or thereabouts for it, then you were correct in your price. The market-place is a pretty realistic evaluator. Even the Hunts couldn't over-power the market-place for very long. If you can't sell it near your price, and don't want to keep it for your collection, send it to me and I will buy it to put along-side my similar (3 G4

3) The photographing seems like a wonderful idea. However, I bet you will run into reluctance on the part of the owners of high-grade coins to have them out of their possession en masse, have them handled, etc. And your insurance bill might be high, in addition to the photographic expense. Also, there is a question of color vs. black + white. There appear to be many different opinions on how coins should be photographed, particularly copper.

4) Glad to furnish info on the 93 C1, because my amount of info is limited. I have only one, which I bought from an Eastern dealer about eight years ago as "Choice brown unc." Most of us would grade it somewhere in the 50 to 55 range, I believe. Prior to that, I had bought lot #1 (Dec. '72) from Stack's Meyers Auction, as "ch EF +". When I got my better one, I traded the Meyers coin back to Stack's for something else, and they sold it again in their Feb. 1, '74 auction.

The only other coin I know of personally came along as part of a group while I still owned both of the above coins. It was also in the EF40 to 45 range, like the Meyers coin. I certainly didn't need a triplicate, so I divided the group with someone else. I kept what I wanted and he took the rest, including the EF 1793. Three coins; definitely not to be thrown in the fountain. End of story. End of letter!

-TCH

10 June, 1981

Dear Tett,

As usual I was very pleased to recieve your letter and it's usual mass of information. Your comments are well recieved and I have a few questions in return.

1) I have since learned that the 1802 electro that I photographed was a copy of the Brobston EF-40 coin, which is reportedly in your collection. I only graded the electro VF-25, but of course it would not be nearly as strong as the original, and it also had some additional problems not evident on the coin in your collection. So - regardless of who pays, I'd still like to have lunch with you at New Orleans!

2) The 1803 and 1809 half cent errors are enclosed for your approval. I can sell you the pair for \$400. although I have close to \$300 in the 1809. I am not collecting die states or errors in my collection as I have barely enough money to collect nice examples of each of the major varieties! It has even gotten to the point where I am considering eliminating the edge lettering sub-varieties from the 1794's because of the weakness of their position as an actual "must-have" coin. Each to his own, I suppose.

3) You made a few comments on the photography, but you neglected to mention which type (black-and-white or color), that you prefer. I'd be interested in hearing your comments.

4) I am enclosing my Census information on the first two varieties of 1793. Please make notes on any of the coins you are familiar with, and include any you are aware of that are not listed in the Census and that should be, along with any and all pertinent information. I'd appreciate it if you would not show this information to anyone, as I have made certain promises to certain individuals that this information would only go to a certain number of people. It's not that I am with-holding information, but it seems that, as in all else, there are personalities that conflict and in order for me to get the most and complete information, it seems that I am having to play both ends against the middle (me being the middle!). More later.

5) Having just returned from the Long Beach show in California, I have a few comments to make.

The 1794 C-3 in the Turkus sale appears to be yours, if my deductions are correct. The significance of the coin is without doubt, it being the finest known by about 15-20 points and the only one in Mint State, assuming that the MS-60 Parmalee coin sold in 1890 and the Chapman "Mills" 4/1904:1401 @\$19.50 in AU are improperly graded or are not, in fact, the "Turkus" coin. In any event, it may interest you to know that the \$25,000. price tag is consistent with it's value as determined by the Sheldon scale of basal values and premium values for finest knowns. A basal value of \$100 can be assigned to the C-3 variety, as VG-10 coins are available for \$1000. Multiply that by the condition factor of 60 and again by the premium value of 4 (the factor applied to Mint State finest knowns) and you get a value of \$24,000., which was also the final bid I made before lowering my hand. Value-wise, I think that was the best deal of the sale and I would have loved to have owned it, but as it was only you and me in there beyond the \$20,000. level I couldn't see pushing it any more. I'm not prepared to sell off my first-born for any coin - yet!

I was able to purchase the 1797 C-1 at \$12,500. and was pleased that the sale and all the time I spent at Superior's examining the lots

was not wasted. I also bought the 1811 on a lark, and I hope I don't live to regret it.

In addition to the sale, I met at the Long Beach show none other than Bill Weber, who I have corresponded with for a few years, but have never gotten to meet. He brought along his 1794's and displayed them for everyone. I spent about two hours carefully examining each one, making notes and adding each and it's pedigree to my notebook. It seems that the 1794 C-5 was struck before the 1794 C-3 and it looks like the emission sequence needs to be revised. Bill appears to be the only person alive who has any hope of completing the 1794 series, but the two specimens of the 1794 3b are being priced accordingly. Ricky Gross is quoting \$15,000. and the other coin is being quoted at \$20,000! Both Fines!

I noticed that Bill's 1794 C-7 was ex-Showers. The only Showers coin of that variety that I know of is the AU-50 that we show as in your collection. Is it the same coin, and if so, have you improved it? And if so, with what?

I also met Jon Hanson in Long Beach, and spent quite a few hours discussing half cents with him. He seems to be quite immersed in real estate and collecting pocket-watches at the moment, but he knows quite a bit about half cents, having been close with Walter Breen, and contrary to the general opinion of him as being tight with his information, I found him to be willing to discuss the series in general and specifics. Although I just got bits and pieces here and there, I got the general impression that his collection is quite significant, both condition and variety-wise. I mentioned the possibility of a new book on half cents, and he seemed willing to work on it although he was reluctant at first because of a desire as he put it "to maintain a competitive edge".

To top the week off, I was shown a copy of the rare and elusive Breen manuscript and got quite a few notes on the Condition Census from it. If you've never seen it, you'll be quite amazed by it, as it consists of approximately 250 type-written (one side only) pages chock-full of information regarding survival rates, historical info, mintage figures, etc. It's a shame it was never published, as it would have been the most complete work ever published, probably on any series of US coins. Walter had a special love for the half cents and had quite a nice collection of them. It would be especially nice if the manuscript could be resurrected, updated, and published. Maybe we can talk him into it.

It was a great week and I probably learned more in a few days about half cents than I have ever learned in my life. For that reason, I'm going to try to get to Long Beach at least twice a year. They have an excellent collector base over there and the collectors are quite different from the Eastern collectors. Kind of like a whole new world. Based simply on the vast geographical separation, it's not hard to realize why we haven't as yet met many of the new collectors and the coins they dig up over in L.A. And if there is anything exciting in this world, it is meeting a new halfcent collector and idling away the hours talking shop.

Keep in touch, and let me know what you think of the Census info. As I complete each variety I will send it to you and a few others for updating, corrections, criticisms, etc. I value your assistance and knowledge and appreciate your help.

Best wishes,

Ron

FROM Ron GUTH

TO TEST

SUBJECT: BAD News + Good News

—NO. 8 & 10 FOLD

## MESSAGE

DATE

8/1

1903

1. THE BAD. Here is your 77, which I have compared  
carefully with my two gripped edges. No way. The  
markings are wrong by every criterion: Size, shape,  
spacing, etc. They bear no relation to the true 6's & 9's.  
Not even a skilled fabrication.

2 THE GOOD. Another 1713. (3 went). While shuffling through  
some old letters that I had written in mother's day I came  
across mother (3) which I say I had written.  
The card I showed you in New Orleans is probably the one  
you had on your hat (?) as it was lavender reminiscent as such.  
—NO. 9 FOLD  
—NO. 10 FOLD  
you can give me a little more detail? very very  
kindly.

—No. 9 FOLD

—No. 10 FOLD

10 FOLD  
The one that just now came ~~was~~ <sup>SIGNE</sup> of kidney may be the  
first one you described as **REPLY** <sup>DATE</sup> ~~Midwest Wolf & Fox~~ I hope

Had it ~~another~~ a week. Unknown judge so. but I have  
read and will try to find out. Don't know quite how  
to grade it, but will ~~ask~~ you when we read it together.

I prefer to do as you suggest, in spite of my objections. However, I would not consider the scatterer and surface not ideal. Has many little scattered clusters and marks which I think are due to the  
These are not really visible with a 100x, but are very so with my magnification.  
Several, but none else could all scratches. Two other items  
for review. One is a scatter well and I just made

—NO. B & 10 FOLD

Parrot, Kev. *ak al u' lach. However, we are*

Ron Guth  
3504 First Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47710  
5 October, 1981

Dear Tett,

Thanks for your letter of 8/8/81 referring to the purported "gripped edge" 1797 that you examined. Please excuse the delay in answering.

Regarding the 1793 C-3, G-1. The coin that I mentioned to you as being from a famous numismatic researcher refers to a coin believed to be held or to have been held by Eric Newman, whom I believe is also from your town (St. Louis). If this confirms the information you have, then we have added one more piece to the Census jig-saw puzzle. I'd appreciate your comments.

I am sorry to hear that the gripping on the coin of mine that you examined was not similar to that of the true gripped edge, although I had a feeling that it would not match up properly. Rather than a financial disappointment, I feel more saddened by not being able to add the piece to my collection as a true "gripped edge". It is a variety that I have long wished to own, as it is truly a unique happening in the half cent series, being confined as it is to the one particular year. With this in mind and with the knowledge of your lower grade piece, I wonder of the availability of your piece for trade. I have the error pieces (1803 and 1809) which you have previously examined in addition to some new acquisitions, including an 1804 C-13 in AU-55 struck on a reverse brockage, an 1828 double-struck 90% off-center at K-10, this being the C-2 variety of the year. In addition the 1797 piece with the partial "gripping" is available along with any of the pieces on the enclosed price list. Perhaps we can effect a trade, and if you are interested, I await your proposal.

One final comment on the gripped edge coins. I have seen recently a 1795 C-6a with a complete gripped edge. The edge device is similar to the 1797 piece I own and appears to be legitimate. My theory is that there exists some token or coin upon which this piece was struck. However, no undertype is evident, so it remains to discover a coin or token that exhibits a similar edge device. Perhaps if we could get in touch with a knowledgeable collector of British trade tokens (remember, the T.A.L. token is one of these), that person might be able to tell us if such a thing exists. It would certainly add a new twist to the half cent series if confirmed.

I returned recently from the Long Beach show in California where a very important and significant half cent "occasion" was held. You may know by now that Breen, in conjunction with Jack Collins and Jon Hanson, is updating and revising his manuscript for publication by the beginning of the year. They were present at the show and the meeting - Walter for note-taking and moderation of the Half cent forum, Jack Collins to photograph significant coins for the plates, and Hanson to collect pedigree and Condition Census in-

formation. Hanson also brought out some of his coins for the first time for the benefit of the audience at the Friday night EAC meeting. Among other things were the 1793 C-1 with the FAME break in AU (the Brand specimen), reportedly the finest 1806 Small 6 with stems, reportedly the finest known 1805 Small 5 with stems, a mint red 1797 C-1, an MS-65 1804 C-5, two very nice 1808/7's with and without the cud over TY, a superb 1795 C-4. Probably eleven or twelve coins in all, but completely and totally mind-destroying. I'm not sure how representative they are of his collection, but I am sure we will find out upon the publication of Breen's book, as apparently Hanson has many Condition Census items.

Roger Cohen also came out for the weekend and he and I and Bill Weber spent one night together till two in the morning discussing Roger's ideas for his new book revision and half cents in general. It seemed that everyone was looking for a big fight at the Friday meeting between Roger and Walter, but as it turned out both men were very cordial and cooperative with each other, Roger probably more so. I think that if a little more communication took place between the two men, we'd all probably be a lot better off for it. I also feel that for the first time in his life, Walter realized that there is a wealth of information on half cents that has been acquired since he did his manuscript in 1966 and that perhaps he doesn't really know it all, and that perhaps there are others out there who may know more than he does regarding the series, especially when they combine their knowledge. It's going to be somewhat interesting when the two books come out; it's probably the first time two books on the same subject came out simultaneously, that is if all schedules are adhered to.

I received an interesting letter from Jack Collins' lawyer who advised me against using any of the information in the Breen manuscript for personal benefit. Jack privately communicated to me that he was afraid that some of Breen's census information might show up in Roger's book and even though I assured him that such an event would not occur, he must have still felt the need for some sort of legal action, if nothing more than a letter of warning. For some reason I feel offended.

Please note my new address. I have moved into my office (finally!) and look forward to a more disciplined existence. For your records my new phone number is 812-428-4000 and I can be reached at that number from 10AM to 6PM, usually Monday through Thursday. I'm a lot closer to you now (three hour drive), so if you ever get the urge to meet sometime, let me know.

Please consider my interest in the 1797 C-3c as genuine and acute. I'd simply like to own one.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

RON

P.S. Both Roger and Bill brought there collections along this weekend past, and it was half-cent heaven for all of us fortunate enough to have seen them.

8.2.

Ron Guth  
3504 First Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47710  
13 July, 1982

R. Tettenhorst  
Box 9252  
Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Dear Tett,

Enclosed please find photos of a coin you may be interested in. It is an example of the 1797 Cohen 1 variety overstruck on a Talbot, Allum, and Lee token. This, by itself, is of no great significance, as most of this variety comes that way. However, you will notice that the coin is somewhat out of round, particularly at 6 to 8 o'clock on the obverse and on the corresponding section of the reverse. The thing that makes this piece significant is that some of the edge lettering of the original TAL token is still visible, in particular the letters HE and ST (Payable at the store of). If this is the sort of curious half cent with a story that you are looking for, the price is \$475.

I also have a 1793 C-3 variety with some planchet laminations, the most significant being a small area missing from Liberty's chin. Unfortunately, I was unable to photograph this piece in time to include it with the present packet, but if you are interested in it also, I will send it to you on approval. The coin grades a full Very Fine and the planchet (with the exception of the laminations) is superb. The price on this piece is \$2000. which is \$1000. below the current "BID" price for VF 1793's.

Have you been able to examine your 1796 half cents for die state information. I am still interested in determining which piece came first. Of course, the reverse is the only telling side. If, when you examine them, pay particular attention to the surfaces, the final C in America and the N in CENT. These both seem to have differences on either variety.

Enough for now. Please keep in touch and if I can help with any hole-filling, please let me know!

N of Cent has lower R corner noticeably more complete on C2, can't see the Sincerely, diff on "C"  
Tett

Ron

P.S. You may keep the photographs

Ron Guth  
3504 First Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47710

13 July, 1982

Leon,

These are the sort of questions my new records will enable me to answer eventually, whether they are put to me in a letter or asked in person while out of town.

Enclosed please find photos of a coin you may be interested in. It is an example of the 1797 Cohen 1 variety overstruck on a Talbot, Allum, and Lee token. This, by itself, is of no great significance, as most of this variety comes that way. However, you will notice that the coin is somewhat out of round, particularly at 6 to 8 o'clock on the obverse and on the corresponding section of the reverse. The thing that makes this piece significant is that some of the edge lettering of the original TAL token is still visible, in particular the letters HE and ST (Payable at the store of). If this is the sort of curious half cent with a story that you are looking for, the price is \$475.

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Enough for now. Please keep in touch and if I can help with any hole-filling, please let me know!

Sincerely,

Ron

P.S. You may keep the photographs

Ron Guth  
8 November, 1982

Dear Tett,

Enclosed is a recent acquisition for your approval. It is an interesting error of 1806 Cohen 1. At first glance it appears to be a rotated double strike but it lacks any doubling on the reverse. I believe that the first striking was a uniface brockage caused by two planchets being placed in the press at the first and same time. You will notice the waviness of the reverse fields which is characteristic of uniface strikings. The coin was then re-inserted into the press and received a normal striking.

Let me know if you concur with my opinion.

What do you think of the Eliasberg prices? Hopefully this will be a positive motivation to bring out the copper section, which would be very exciting from what I hear. At least we can hope.

Have you heard who bought the 1809 C.I with terminal cud?

Best wishes,

RON

P.S. Also enclosed - 1831 family photo





Nov. 22, 1982

Ron,

Thanks for the 1806 double-strike. Check for \$450 enclosed. Glad to have it, although:

a) Not sure it was first a uniface striking. Could be, of course, but the reverse could have been weakly struck (or a weak brokerage of another coin's obverse) which was fully obliterated during the second strike. I have a uniface that is not particularly wavy. My hunch is that you are correct, but not a strong certainty.

b) No big deal if it is. I have some other double strikes that show only on one side. Some double-strikes were unintentional, but others were clearly intended to correct a faulty first strike. This latter category includes uniface, brokerage, off-center, etc. None are particularly rare. In fact, and

c) However, I have another 1806 C1 which is also double-struck on one side only, but on the reverse! I intend to consider it, together with the one you just sent me, as a pair. The two blank planchets were put in the press together, then removed after each received a strike on one side only, then each restruck. Two coins, three strikings! Now find me a pair of uniface 1806 C1's, one obv, one rev., and we will have a nice little mini-exhibit!

Elisberg Auction? Mark me "no knowledge" in terms of gold prices and values, "no opinion" on the auction results.

The 1809 C1 with cud? Don't know who got it. Thanks for the 1831 'picture. Tell

JL will call Sun. eve

Ron Guth  
3504 First Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47710  
2 February, 1983

Dear Tett,

Enclosed please find ~~is~~ a fresh, hot-off-the-press list of the "Baltimore collection" as promised. I have been asked by the owner to send you an early list; the other lists will not be mailed until the 5th of February.

Best wishes,

Ron

Ron Guth  
3504 First Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47710

15 March, 1983

Dear Tett,

Here are several of Ricky Gross' error coins which you had requested on approval. You had mentioned that you might want to negotiate price. If so, get in touch with Ricky as he has instructed me to remain firm on the prices for the time being.

If you have any questions please call or write.

Best wishes,

Ron

3/30/83

Ron:

I'm returning the  
five coins marked "R".  
Enclosed is a check for  
\$2750, covering the  
other eleven coins.

Thanks very much,

Tett

**RON GUTH**  
RARE COINS, INC.

3504 FIRST AVE.  
EVANSVILLE, IN 47710  
(812) 464-5459

APPROVAL  
INVOICE

TETT

DATE 3/14/83

INVOICE NO.

N<sup>o</sup> 1396

QTY.	DESCRIPTION.	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	1800 1/2¢ Double-Struck		300 00
R	1802 1/2¢ Overstruck on Cent		750 00
	1804 C-6 1/2¢ Lightweight		75 00
	1806 1/2¢ TRIPLE Struck		225 00
	1808 1/2¢ Double-Struck		200 00
	1808 1/2¢ Brockage		500 00
	1809 Double Struck 1/2¢		150 00
	1809/6 1/2¢ Clip		75 00
R	1809 C-6 1/2¢ Partial Brockage		750 00
	1810 Partial Brockage		150 00
PLEASE PAY FROM THIS INVOICE		SUB TOTAL	
		TAX	
		TOTAL	

**RON GUTH**  
RARE COINS, INC.

3504 FIRST AVE.  
EVANSVILLE, IN 47710  
(812) 464-5459

APPROVAL  
INVOICE

TETT

DATE 3/14/03

INVOICE NO.

No 1397

QTY.	DESCRIPTION.	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	1825 1/2¢ Rev. double struck	350.00	
R	1828 1/2¢ Double struck	750.00	
	1851 (Not 1857) 1/2¢ Partial "railroad rim"	375.00	
R	1804 C.9 1/2¢ double struck	1250.00	
	1803 1/2¢ off. center	350.00	
R	1802 1/2¢, double struck	1500.00	
16	@	7150	-
5	@	5000	-
5 @ 5000	11	2750	
5 @ 1875			
875			
6 @ 7150			
	TAX		
	TOTAL		

RON GUTH  
Auction Manager



#6 Chevy Chase Place  
Lexington KY, 40502

8 February, 1984

R. Tettenhorst  
Box 9252  
Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Dear Tett:

How are things going? Have you had much snow this year in Missouri, or is it the mild winter they were predicting last Fall?

My purpose in writing is two-fold. First, I would like to offer you two coins from our inventory. Secondly, I'm going to explain our situation as it concerns our auction.

The first coin is an 1802 half cent (C-2) in VG. The attraction of the coin is the large cent undertype which is very visible to the left of Liberty's head. What is visible is leaf detail from the reverse of the large cent and it is fairly well impressed. The remainder of the coin is chocolate brown (which is unusual for an 1802 anyway) except for an area at the top left of the reverse which is reddish and porous. The obverse surfaces are fairly free of marks, save for a ding on the T of LIBERTY, a field depression before Liberty's throat, and one or two insignificant marks on Liberty herself. The reverse has quite a few minor marks, but none that are inconsistent with the grade, and none which are terribly distracting or that make you hate the coin. All in all it's a very attractive example and the undertype is strong. Price - \$750.

The second coin is the Alvord 1841 Proof Original. I'm sure you already have an 1841 Original since it is probably the commonest of all the Proof-only Half Cents (besides the 1852). I have photographs of at least twenty different specimens. In any event, the coin is a Proof-60 with steel blue and tan colors. It has a few minor rim dings on the obverse while the reverse is pretty clean. There are a few contact marks on both sides, most noticeably before Liberty's chin in the field, and two dings above the A in HALF and one above the EN of CENT. It exhibits the characteristic die crack on the obverse from the rim above the second star to the seventh star. The edge exhibits the reeding, but only minutely visible where the rim meets the edge of the coin. I have found this to be true on all 1840 and 1841 Original Proofs I have examined; in other words, I have seen none without at least a trace of the reeding! What has been your experience? The coin matches exactly the plate in the Alvord sale and is available for \$2100. I purchased it out of the Loye Lauder

sale, where the pedigree had gone unrecognized, for \$1700. plus the ten percent buyer's fee. By the way, most of the Proof Half Cents in that sale were from Stack's Holmes sale of October, 1960.

If you are interested in either of the two coins above, let me know and I'll send them to you on approval.

You probably know by now that I have taken a position with Florida Coin Exchange as their Auction Manager. This job entails much more than it indicates and includes everything from obtaining consignments to cataloguing and photographing the coins and producing the final catalogue. I simply wanted to let you know that we are very flexible with our commission arrangements and we can arrange completely confidential transactions which include total cash deals. If we can ever assist you in selling any of your coins, duplicates, or whatever, please let me know.

Thanks for your help with the Census information. Despite the editorial problems with the 1794 issues, I think we have all done a great service for the Half Cent collectors.

Keep in touch.

Best wishes,

Ron

Ron Guth  
3504 First Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47710  
812-464-5459

Dear Tett,

How are things going? I trust you returned home safely from Boston and that all is well. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed having dinner with you and the "guys" at Durgin-Park. My wife enjoyed looking at the menu I spirited home for her and of course no one will believe how big the prime ribs were!

I've taken the liberty to send you a coin which you might like to add to your collection of errors. It is a triple-struck 1795 C-6a, with the word UNITED visible between 2 and 4 o'clock on the obverse and leaves and ED S from UNITED STATES visible under the chin of Miss Liberty. The coin is also slightly off-center, most obviously so on the reverse. The rim defects are of course, post-mint and unfortunately not the true "gripped edge" variety. You may buy the coin at \$325. if you so desire.

Have you seen Sam Ungar's list of coppers. Apparently he has sold most of the coins with the exception of his "finest known" 1802 C-1, priced at \$22,000 (probably why he hasn't yet sold it!). Did you buy anything from him?

Jim McGuigan let me photograph his collection the Monday following ANA. It was my first full-fledged attempt at coin photography and having already seen proof sheets, I think they will come out alright. I'm trying to develop a good set-up for color photography (I've only done black-and-white so far) so that I can re-shoot his collection at the fall Whist match. Color is tough though, especially when traveling due to the variances in lighting, so it will take some practice.

I submitted an article for the next issue of PENNY-WISE on the 1795 half cent emission sequence. Let me know what you think of it.

Also, please note the new phone number above.  
Keep in touch.

Best wishes,

Ron